

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 were originally filed in this patent application. In the pending office action dated 09/21/2006, claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-15 and 17-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Patent Application Publication US2003/0226111 to Wirts *et al.* (hereinafter “Wirts”). Claims 4, 8-10, 16 and 26-30 were allowed. In this amendment, claims 2, 4, 13, 18-20, 22 and 27-28 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 17, 21, 23 and 26 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 5-12, 14-17, 21, 23-26 and 29-30 are currently pending.

REMARKS

Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-15 and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

The examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-15 and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Wirts. Claims 2, 13, 18-20 and 22 have been cancelled herein, and therefore need not be addressed. Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 13 and 22 were rejected in error, because these claims include limitations similar to claim 4, which was allowed by the examiner. Independent claims 1, 11 and 17 have been amended herein to incorporate the limitations in previous claims 4, 13 and 22, respectively, which places these claims in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 3, 5-7, 12, 14-15, 21, and 23-25 are allowable as depending on allowable independent claims.

Allowance of claims 4, 8-10, 16 and 26-30

The examiner allowed claims 4, 8-10, 16 and 26-30. The allowable subject matter in claim 4 has been added herein to claim 1, and claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 8-10, 16 and 26-30 have not been amended, but are allowable as originally filed, as indicated by the examiner. Applicants thank the examiner for allowing these claims.

Conclusion

In summary, none of the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, teach, support, or suggest the unique combination of features in applicants' claims presently on file. Therefore, applicants respectfully assert that all of applicants' claims are allowable. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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